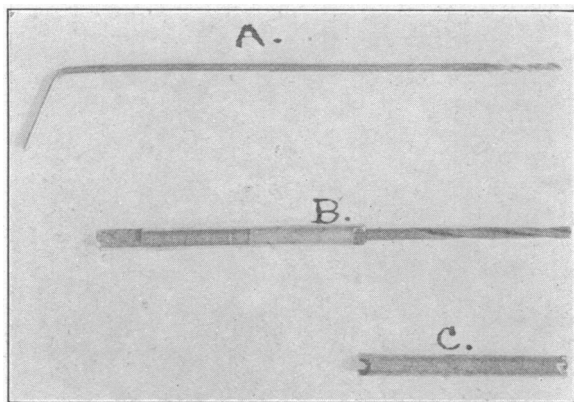


palpable; patellars hyperactive. Urine shows urobilin present. Gastric contents show no free HCL. Stool examination negative for intestinal parasites. Wassermann negative. Blood examination: hbg. 20; red cells 864,000; white cells 2000; differential polymorphs 60; small mononuclears 25; large mononuclears 15 per cent; Smear shows macrocytes, microcytes, poikilocytes, a few normoblasts. Reticulated red cells 4 per cent. Fragility of the corpuscles .45-.38. Shortly after entering hospital a marrow puncture was performed showing a red marrow, very cellular, with evidence of activity—see cut of bone marrow smear No. 1. Many of the cells showed mitotic figures and also what we considered might be direct division by splitting up of nuclei. This patient left the hospital in July after two transfusions feeling very well. He returned to rather heavy physical labor. Shortly after leaving the hospital he was married.

We have performed marrow puncture in seven cases of pernicious anemia, where the diagnosis



Showing actual size of drill and instrument for reaming out the marrow

seemed quite certain and there were only two marrows that showed the presence of a number of cells containing mitotic figures in the nuclei. The other case is that of a young woman with marked evidence of hemolysis, but very little evidence of blood regeneration, as judged from a study of the peripheral blood. She showed on examination of the marrow a moderate number of cells scattered through the smear. We considered her marrow to be hyperplastic. About two weeks after marrow puncture she was subjected to removal of the spleen. Cut No. 2 shows a section of the marrow obtained at autopsy, as she only survived the splenectomy about three weeks. This section shows what appears to be considerable cellular activity in the marrow of the tibia following splenectomy. Two transfusions before splenectomy were apparently without avail in stimulating the marrow of the long bones.

The majority of the cases, diagnosed as pernicious anemia, and in which marrow puncture has been performed by us, have yielded a marrow showing very few signs of activity as judged by number, uniform distribution of cells and presence of diversified types of cells with amitotic and mitotic divisions of nuclei. This has been due in

part at least to the fact that we have been dealing, for the most part, with cases of long duration where the marrow has been practically exhausted. It seemed best, for reasons which are obvious, to begin our work with cases of this type. The data here presented is fragmentary and can not be used for critical analysis, our purpose in this paper being to present a method which we believe can be used to advantage in the study of pernicious anemia. Our basis for such belief is that we feel, in order to give intelligent prognosis in primary anemia, it is necessary to balance the degree of blood destruction against the degree of blood regeneration, as evidenced by direct study of the marrow, rather than by study of the peripheral blood alone. The method also enables one to study the effects of agents thought to be marrow stimulants. Such studies are now under way with reference to the effects of different dosages of X-Ray on the marrow. The histological study of the marrow during different phases of the disease should yield information of definite value.

The greatest service perhaps which the method has rendered us in connection with pernicious anemia, has been to awaken an interest and desire to study the disease in its entirety and to classify doubtful cases at an earlier date than has been possible in the past.

PHYSICIANS BEGIN OFFENSIVE IN THE PROBLEM OF NARCOTIC ADDICTION

The present anti-narcotic laws are not perfect by any means, but their honest, intelligent enforcement would reduce the number of addicts very materially and simplify the whole problem very much. Physicians have allowed themselves to be placed upon the defensive in this medical and public health problem by dishonest political propaganda for a long time. At last a serious organized offensive movement has been started so that the public may be informed of what some administrative officers of our government will do with the morals, health and lives of our citizens, that they may have political control of an important part of the underworld and at the same time, in some instances at least, secure profit to themselves.

The House of Delegates of the American Medical Association, in convention assembled, on May 23, 1922, adopted the following resolution on narcotic addiction:

"Resolved, That the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association approve House Resolution No. 258 (House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.), providing for a select committee of fifteen to inquire into the subject of narcotic conditions in the United States, the personnel of the Congressional committee to include all physicians who are now members of the House of Representatives."

House Resolution Number 258, referred to in the A. M. A. resolution, was introduced by Congressman (Doctor) Lester D. Volk. It calls for the appointment of a special committee, consisting of the fifteen physician members of Congress, to investigate the narcotic evil. This resolution, which has been endorsed by a number of National and State organizations, is a fearless exposé of some of the disgraceful methods employed in the administration of present laws, both by State and Federal

officers. The resolution in full (*italics ours*) is as follows:

"Whereas competent medical and administrative authorities estimate that between one million and two million persons in the United States are victims of narcotic-drug addiction, and many of these unfortunates are ex-soldiers, ex-sailors, and ex-marines, members of the American Expeditionary Forces in the late World War, and the situation arising from the existence of so large a number of narcotic-drug users has created a menace to the physical and moral welfare of the citizens of the United States; and

Whereas this condition of affairs has been complicated and aggravated by administration of existing narcotic laws in the various States and of the Harrison narcotic law by the Federal Government, and *many of the rulings of the Federal Government and the provisions of State narcotic laws and sanitary codes of municipalities of the United States, point to an organized conspiracy on the part of certain administrators and physicians to drive narcotic-drug addicts into established sanatoria purporting to treat and cure narcotic-drug addictions; and*

Whereas this conspiracy has taken the course of rulings, provisions, and regulations by the Federal Prohibition Commissioner at Washington, acting for the Internal Revenue Department of the Treasury Department in the matter of narcotic control, and by the passage of statutes by various State legislatures and the regulation of narcotic-drug distribution by various boards of health of various municipalities of the United States, which are contrary to existing medical bibliography, clinical and pathological research, and the best medical and lay experience in the handling of addict patients; and

Whereas the said medical bibliography, clinical, and pathological research, ignored in the administration of Federal, State, and municipal statutes, rules, and regulations, set forth conclusive scientific proof of the grave physical reactions in the body of an addict deprived of opium derivatives, resulting in acute discomfort, collapse and sometimes death; and pathological research shows changes in blood analyses in different stages of the withdrawal of narcotic drugs from addict patients, duplicating in every particular the phenomena evidenced in cases of acute infection and commonly recognized as disease symptoms; and medical records exist that serums extracted from the blood of animals in drug withdrawal has produced the complete symptomatology of drug withdrawal when administered to unaddicted animals of the same breed; and medical history, current and foreign, reports scores of cases of congenital addiction (that is, addiction at birth), and scores of deaths as the result of improper withdrawal of drugs; and

Whereas all of these known facts have been ignored in the administration of the Harrison narcotic law and in the administration of various State narcotic statutes and municipal sanitary codes and regulations, by the issuance of rules and regulations making it impossible for the medical profession to treat narcotic-drug addicts without fear of arrest, indictment, and conviction, or interference and persecution by the criminal authorities; and

Whereas such administration of existing narcotics, Federal, State and municipal, has resulted in an increase in smuggling, peddling, and illegal distribution of opium and its derivatives, and exaggeration of conditions in the underworld resulting from the existence of a criminal type of addicts; and such administration has resulted also in a virtual monopoly in the treatment of narcotic addict patients by privately owned and operated sanatoria promoting certain routine formulas and cures for narcotic addiction; and *it is a recognized fact among competent clinicians that the physical phenomena presented by the addict patients do not lend themselves to treatment by any specific routine treatment; and*

Whereas evasion and ignorance of these facts is rapidly increasing the criminal class of addicts, spreading addiction among the curious, encouraging smug-

gling, and driving hundreds of thousands of post-operative and post-war addicts of every walk of life to doubtful cures conducted by charlatans and fakers, and these intolerable conditions, menacing the youth of the nation and the physical and moral welfare of our citizens can be corrected only by an unbiased and fearless investigation of narcotic addiction conditions in the United States; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Speaker appoint a select committee of fifteen, and shall include therein all members of the medical profession who are Members of the House, and that such committee be instructed to inquire into the subject of narcotic addiction in the United States, the method of handling these unfortunates, the medical addenda available regarding methods of treatment by private physicians, institutions, and sanitariums, the effectiveness of the present laws, rules, and regulations to control smuggling, trafficking and abuse of narcotic drugs, and for the purpose of drafting legislation for the control of narcotic drug addiction.

For such purposes it shall have the power to send for persons, books, and papers, administer oaths, and is authorized to sit during the session or recesses of Congress, at Washington or any other place in the United States, and shall have the right to report at any time.

The expenses of the said investigation shall be paid out of the contingent fund of the House upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the said committee and to be immediately available."

All physicians should read this resolution, as well as the discussion of the subject by Congressman Volk and others, published in the Congressional Record and elsewhere. It would be as feasible to try to clarify the waters of the Mississippi River by filtration as it would be to solve the drug addict problem by treating the addicts. In both instances purity may be obtained only by cleaning the mud out of the source.

Some administrative officers have granted permits to cultists, not educated in the actions and uses of narcotics, who claim to be opposed to the use of drugs and who are not licensed to prescribe or use narcotics by the State; they have refused publicity of the names and qualifications of some who are given permits under the Harrison law; have employed unnecessary restrictive measures to physicians and surgeons licensed by the State to prescribe narcotics; have encouraged or permitted publicity tending to criticize and embarrass educated licensed physicians, and have used this publicity as a smoke-screen to hide certain methods employed in administration of these laws.

The JOURNAL has much interesting evidence on this subject about conditions closer home. We want more. Every physician in the State is requested to continue reporting to us every instance of the dispensing or prescribing of narcotics by any person not holding a California Physician and Surgeon's license.

The drug addict problem is one of the most important medical and public health questions before the citizens of this State. Dr. Volk, after accumulating nation-wide data, says that dishonest administrative officers of the Government and a few politicians of our profession are attempting to place the blame for their misdeeds upon our profession. The physicians, hospitals, nurses and other medical agencies of California—individually and through their organizations—resent the abominable situation and may be counted upon to express this resentment effectively.